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# DRAFT REPORT OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD ON THE SECOND PART OF ITS THIRTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
from 11 to .. March 1991

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CONTENTS

Chapter — Paragraphs

II. Other matters in the field of trade and development

- Implementation of the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation, in particular the revitalization of the economic growth and development of the developing countries (Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/54) (agenda item 6) ..... 100 - 109

(Statements by Greece (Group B); China; Egypt (Group of 77); Sudan; and Indonesia)

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## Chapter II

### OTHER MATTERS IN THE FIELD OF TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

- IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION, IN PARTICULAR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1990/54)

(Agenda item 6)

100. The President recalled that ECOSOC resolution 1990/54 recommended that governing bodies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system include in their agenda the question of the implementation of the Declaration and invited them to report to the Council, at its second regular session in 1991, on steps taken by themselves and by Governments within their respective spheres of competence, with a view to ensuring the implementation of the Declaration. Virtually the entire substantive content of the Declaration was relative to the current activities of UNCTAD and the orientations it provided were broadly relevant to the substantive agenda for UNCTAD VIII, which would be the principal occasion for UNCTAD to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration.

101. The spokesman for Group B (Greece) stated that the adoption of the Declaration marked a major step in the international community's efforts to achieve global progress in economic development. The special session itself had contributed to a genuine dialogue and common perceptions among all countries as regards developmental thinking. The Declaration covered a broad spectrum of issues affecting the economic growth of developing countries and included a reference to the responsibility of each country for its own development and emphasized the role of major industrialized countries concerning world economic growth and the international economic environment.

102. The Declaration recognized the role of developing countries in maintaining control over inflationary tendencies, stimulating domestic savings and achieving favourable conditions for domestic and foreign investment. It called for urgent and continuous attention to the external debt problems of developing countries and stated that the quantity and quality of aid should be enhanced and appropriate and additional resources should be provided by the developed countries. All these activities had to take into account environmentally sound policies and sustainable development.

103. Referring to the list of topics included in document TD/B/1287, he said Group B considered it useful to reiterate that UNCTAD should focus its work on specific areas within its competence and its existing budget, whilst taking

into account the relevant work of other international organizations. The implementation of the Declaration required concerted and continued efforts of all countries. While well thought out responses of each Government to the economic challenges were necessary, international actions as outlined in the Declaration were imperative, if progress in its implementation was to be achieved. Efforts in that direction were part of delegations' task at the current session and beyond.

104. The representative of China said the Declaration was an important document adopted by the international community and, although a couple of its conclusions and projections had yet to be borne out by facts, it could still be regarded as a guide for the international community's work in strengthening international economic co-operation for the promotion of economic growth and development of developing countries.

105. The Declaration was closely related to the functions of UNCTAD, which was therefore duty-bound to take effective action to contribute to the implementation of the measures and objectives as set forth in the Declaration. The achievement of positive results at UNCTAD VIII represented one of the immediate tasks in this regard. The formulation of a complete set of effective macro- and micro-policy measures relating to the agenda items of the Conference would constitute an initial substantive input to the implementation of the Declaration by UNCTAD.

106. The spokesman for the Group of 77 (Egypt) stated that the Declaration on International Economic Co-operation was a landmark in the long search by the community of nations to guarantee the basic right of all human beings to live free from hunger, poverty, ignorance, disease and fear. His Group believed that the declaration on the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNCTAD represented a substantive contribution to the formulation of resolution S-18/3 of the General Assembly. The Declaration defined the commitments and policies for international economic co-operation. In particular it called for a durable and broad solution to the debt problem; implementation of international targets of ODA; support for the efforts of developing countries to create and develop indigenous capacities in the area of science and technology; response by the multilateral financial institutions to the increasing need of developing countries in the 1990s; an open and credible multilateral trading system; and the finding of lasting solutions to the commodity problem of developing countries. UNCTAD had already undertaken efforts to implement

the provisions of the Declaration, in particular through the Programme of Action adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, resolutions and decisions adopted by the Trade and Development Board at the first part of its thirty-seventh session, the agreed conclusions of the Committee on Commodities and the resolutions adopted by the second United Nations Conference to Review all Aspects of the Set of Multilaterally Agreed Equitable Principles and Rules for the Control of RBPs. These resolutions represented a positive step forward and he called upon member States, especially developed countries to make extra efforts to implement them. According to its mandate UNCTAD was addressed by the Declaration in its entirety and therefore was required to undertake every possible effort to implement it. The Group of 77 believed that UNCTAD VIII would provide an opportunity to demonstrate the necessary political will as well as an impetus to the efforts to implement the Declaration.

107. The representative of the Sudan stated that the Declaration contained an excellent analysis and important recommendations and constituted a landmark in international economic co-operation. It reconfirmed the importance of interdependence and the need for a global approach to international questions as well as the growing importance of effective interactions between national and international policies. The Declaration had a close bearing on UNCTAD activities, in particular in relation to regional economic integration among developing countries, activities in relation to LDCs, environment and sustainable development, debt and the commodity problems. He called for strong support for UNCTAD activities in relation to the Declaration. UNCTAD had a particular responsiblity in the implementation of this Declaration, which would make it possible to avoid the 1990s being another lost decade for development. UNCTAD VIII would be a valuable opportunity to implement the Declaration.

108. The representative of Indonesia said he believed the Declaration would set the tone and pace of international economic co-operation for the 1990s. The consensus reached on a number of issues marked a major turning point in international co-operation and the policies adopted and commitments made on that occasion should be vigorously implemented. The Declaration recognized in particular that reactivation of economic growth and development in developing countries would require a concerted and committed effort by all countries, in particular in the areas of finance, resources for development, debt, international trade, commodities and technology. He noted with concern that

the flow of ODA in the 1980s had not measured up to the needs of developing countries. In this regard the call in the Declaration with regard to the transfer of resources was extremely relevant. The Declaration also made a specific commitment to formulate a durable and broad-based solution to the debt problems of developing countries. The Declaration signified the need for an open and credible multilateral trading system. Problems of international commodity trade had to be addressed. New vigour had to be injected into international commodity co-operation by promoting new mechanisms while preserving the spirit and objectives of the IPC. It was also urgent to foster the establishment of an international arrangement for the transfer of technology to developing countries as science and technological capability were determinant factors for development. Efforts had to be increased to intensify the implementation of the UN-PAAERD and the objectives of the Programme of Action for LDCs for the 1990s. It was more essential than ever to improve and revitalize international economic co-operation. UNCTAD VIII would provide a forum to discuss these issues and to translate the policies and commitments in the Declaration into a workable framework of co-operation and follow-up action.

109. Summing up the discussion on item 6 (a), the President said that, as was underlined in document TD/B/1287, there was a link between current UNCTAD activities and the substantive content of the Declaration. Indeed a number of the directives in the Declaration were the subject of current deliberations in UNCTAD intergovernmental bodies. Moreover, the policies and commitments in the Declaration were directly relevant to the substantive agenda for UNCTAD VIII, which would be the main opportunity for UNCTAD to contribute to its implementation. He proposed transmitting to ECOSOC at its next summer session a summary of the deliberations at the current session, together with the note by the secretariat under this item.

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